

REMARKS

In the Office action dated January 2, 2009, pending claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,151,178 to Nickerson et al. (hereafter "Nickerson"). In addition, pending claims 4, 7, 10, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nickerson in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,635,683 to Neilson (hereafter "Neilson"). Additionally, claims 12 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

In order to expedite prosecution of the application, claims 1-10 have been canceled for pursuit in a continuation application. Additionally, independent claim 11 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 12. Also, independent claim 17 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 18. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 and claim 17 are now in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 13-16 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each depends directly or indirectly from claim 11. Likewise, claim 19 and 20 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each depends directly or indirectly from claim 17.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, respectfully request the allowance thereof. If, however, the Examiner should for any reason consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Application No. 10/573,615
Amendment dated February 24, 2009
Reply to Office Action of January 2, 2009

Docket No.: 11000054-0033

Applicants believe no fee is due with this request. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 19-3140, under Order No. 11000054-0003 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 24, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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